

REMARKS

Claims 5, 7, 11 and 14 are canceled.

Claims 1 - 4, 6, 8 – 10, 12 and 13 are amended.

Claim 15 is newly added by this amendment.

Claims 1- 4, 6, 8 – 10, 12, 13 and 15 are currently in the case.

The Examiner has objected to the typographical error on page 7, lines 15 and 16. That error is corrected in this response.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner was concerned about Applicants having claimed that the bushing is rotatable but appearing as though it would come into interference contact with the rack as pictured in Fig. 1.

In response, Applicants have amended Fig. 1 by labeling the cutout section 80, as well as upper edge 81 of bushing 16. In addition, Applicants are submitting herewith a new informal Fig. 3 that provides more detail for the cutout section 80. Applicants submit that it is well within the skill set of persons working in this art to construct the invention with adequate clearance between the bushing and the rack casing to allow rotation within the exemplified range of 20 degrees as stated on page 9, in paragraph 0023. In fact the cutout was illustrated in originally submitted Fig. 1, but was not labeled as such.

The language added to the specification, as well as the amendment to Fig. 1 and the addition of Fig. 3, are merely clarifying in nature. As such, they do not constitute “new matter”. They were part of the invention, as described and claimed in the originally filed application.

It is further believed that the rejection is overcome by the clarifying amendment provided herewith and the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for its recitation of a lock nut. Claim 11 is canceled by this response. Accordingly, the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite and focused his reasoning on the language of claims 1 and 5.

In claim 1, the recitation of "the end of the pinion" on line 12 was highlighted by the Examiner as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the pinion as: *"...a pinion having a shaft section, a gear section and a nose section, said gear section being located between said shaft section and said nose section of said pinion;"* This rewrite of claim 1 to recite the nose section as a replacement for the objected language corresponds to the description of element 37 in Fig. 1, and is well supported.

In claim 5, the "press-fit coupling" recitation was objected to. Claim 5 is canceled by this response.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is overcome by this response and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ballester, '337. It is believed that the claims present in the application clearly distinguish the present invention from the prior art cited by the Examiner.

In Ballester, the rotation of the bushing 110 to regulate the pinion 700 coupling with respect to the rack 200 is achieved because the bushing contains eccentric walls 110' and 110" and rotation of the bushing within a cylindrical casing 100 causes a shift in the axial position of the pinion. A nut 111 is located at the end of the casing nearest the pinion gear and is referred to as a "dragging nut" (col. 4, lines 63-65). When dragging nut 111 is manually rotated it causes rotation of the bushing and adjustment of the pinion. Ballester describes the regulation action as follows: *"The way in which pinion 700 is regulated is by screwing or unscrewing nut 111 which in turn determines a radial variation of inner surface 110' eccentricity of bushing 110 producing a radial movement of piece 112 approaching pinion 107 to rack bar 102 in order to achieve a proper assembly relationship between them when an excessive clearance between teeth is detected."* (col. 5, lines 11- 17).

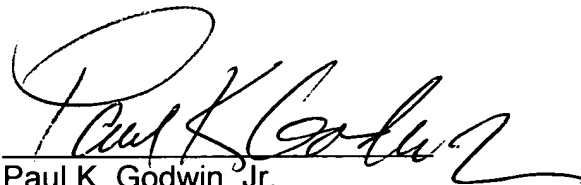
In contrast, Applicants are utilizing an adjustable nut at the pinion shaft end of the bushing ("first end") to tighten the bushing with respect to the housing, not to rotate the bushing and pinion. Adjustment of the axis of the pinion is made by manually rotating the bushing when the nut is loosened. In addition, the nut in the present invention is located at the opposite end of the bushing from that shown in Ballestar. As a result of Applicants' invention, the adjustment and lock down can be made from the top, or pinion shaft end, of the assembly rather than the bottom, or rack end. Although

not appreciated by Ballestar or suggested in Ballestar, Applicants have uniquely improved on the adjustment mechanism by locating both the tightening nut and the collar section of the bushing at the same end of the assembly to allow easier adjustments where top access is preferable.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments to the specification, drawings and claims of the subject application overcome the examiner's objections and rejections stated in the aforementioned Office Action. In addition, it is believed that the foregoing remarks have rebutted each argument set forth by the examiner in an attempt to advance prosecution and illustrate how the claimed invention is patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, the examiner is requested to withdraw his rejections and approve the amended drawings so that formal versions may be prepared in a timely fashion.

All of the other prior art cited by the examiner have been reviewed and it is agreed that they are properly not cited to support rejections of any pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul K. Godwin, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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